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layered branch, where new wood is subjected to the same conditions, and therefore seem to be quite analogous to the case in which the Linden and Mulberry produced roots, if not an expression of the same law. The apparent incongruity exhibited by a plant deriving, as it seems, nourishment from its own body appears more striking at first thought than if we consider that the lignified part of any living trunk, if reduced by decay, is as fittingly a plant food as that which may be appropriated by the same individual from its own accumulation of decayed leaves, provided, of course, the necessary moisture is present in the humus.

GEORGE B. SUDWORTH.

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Botanical Notes.

Sweet Potato Blossoms. While in South Jersey last fall I was much surprised to find one field of sweet potatoes in full bloom! Literally this was true, for upon any single square rod of the field there were hundreds of the large, handsome, pale pink, tubular blossoms, and many more buds preparing for anthesis. In conversation with a local botanist, and one who has always lived in the sweet potato region and among the plants for many years as a grower of "sweets," I learned that he had never seen a single bloom, and his face lighted up to such an extent when he obtained an herbarium specimen that it was an inspiration to me to send this note to the BULLETIN. If the blossom is such a rarity in New Jersey, the wonder is if the same is true in the Carolinas and further south, where its native haunts may possibly be, although to this generation they are unknown. It is possible that this particular field was set with plants of a strain foreign to the Jersey soil.

BYRON D. HALSTED.

Mimulus moschatus, Dougl. in N. Y. State.—Some years ago I was told by a friend from here of finding the musk-plant in Saratoga County wild, which I would not believe. Later he tried to convince me by showing me living specimens, but I remained sceptical, as I always heard the plant was not hardy in our climate, and probably only an escape from cultivation. The 3d of July last, however, I drove out with the sportsman the twenty-five or more miles from here through West Milton to Middle

Grove, town of Greenfield, Saratoga County, following the course of the boisterous Kayderosserus to the mouth of the famous trout brook, Morehouse Brook, No. 1, about one mile northwest of Middle Grove village. The very first thing I met here after crossing the bridge were whole patches of the *Mimulus*, hanging over the banks of the brooklet, with their frosty foliage perfuming the whole atmosphere. Following the course of the water the plant was found wherever a clear space was left for the sun to shine upon the loamy soil. About one mile up the creek—in full view of the foot-hills of the well-known Adirondacks, the plant has its headquarters in a springy swamp, growing in all directions in the midst of the water, often two feet high. A trapper informed me of having known the plant here always and nowhere else in the neighborhood. How this far western plant came there I am not able to tell, but it is there and in great abundance.

J. H. WIBBE.

[This species was found by the late Mr. Julius A. Bisky in 1886, growing in a boggy swamp, about two miles east of Locust Valley, Queens Co., Long Island, N. Y., on the right hand side of the Oyster Bay road. He reported it as perfectly at home, and scattered over a considerable area (BULLETIN, xiv. 13). A specimen from this locality is preserved in the Columbia College Herbarium.—N. L. B.]

Reviews of Foreign Literature.

Monographiæ Phanerogamarum. Vol. vii. Melastomaceæ. Alfred Cogniaux. (8vo. pp. 1256, Paris, July, 1891.)

M. Cogniaux's long-continued studies of the Melastomaceæ have culminated in the production of this fine volume. It contains descriptions of 2,702 species and 534 varieties. *Miconia* is the largest genus, containing 518 species. Seven genera accepted by Bentham and Hooker are rejected, and the following new ones proposed: *Schwackæa*, *Benevidesia*, *Bisglasiovia*, *Barbeyastrum*, *Beccarianthus*, *Boerlagea*, *Brittenia* and *Medinillopsis*. As in M. Cogniaux's previous monographs, the oldest unpreoccupied specific names satisfactorily ascertained are adopted. An appendix of twenty-two pages contains additional species, which have come to notice during the printing of the book, the main portion having been completed in September, 1889. N. L. B.